

# **Fires in Solid Waste Piles:**

## **A Discussion Paper**

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[California Home](#)

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[Search](#)

[Index](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Help](#)

[LEA Central Search](#)

[What's New](#)

[Index](#)

[Communications](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Databases](#)

[Facilities](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Programs](#)

[Legislation and  
Regulations](#)

[Tools & Services](#)

[LEA Central Home](#)

**Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) Central**

## **Fires at Solid Waste Facilities**

California is experiencing what appears to be an increase in the frequency of fires in piles of waste at solid waste facilities and operations. The Board wishes to provide a venue for open dialog, information sharing, and the generation of ideas for and by stakeholders on this topic.

For additional information contact [Dennis Corcoran](#) at (916) 341-6395.

### **Status**

The Board will hold a [public workshop](#) (MS Word, 140 KB) in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal on March 29, 2005, in Sacramento. See Stakeholder Input below for additional information.

### **Stakeholder Input**

March 29, 2005 Workshop

- Notice: [Adobe PDF](#), 39 KB or [MS Word](#), 140 KB
- Agenda: [Adobe PDF](#), 34 KB or [MS Word](#), 13 KB
- [Workshop Broadcast](#) (live, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

# <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/leacentral/fires/>

## More Information

**Discussion Paper**, December 2004 ([MS Word](#), 195 KB or [Adobe PDF](#), 271 KB): Prepared to promote discussion on the topic of fires at solid waste facilities. Based upon inspection report information, news reports, and personal communications from LEAs, Board staff and others.

[\*\*Solid Waste Fires\*\*](#), August 2004: All-LEA memorandum

[\*\*Waste Tire Fires\*\*](#): With more than 30 million tires generated yearly in California and an estimated 15 million stockpiled--legally and illegally--around the state, the potential for a major tire fire is a constant threat.

Last updated: March 23, 2005

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Local enforcement agencies (LEA) are designated by the governing body of a county or city and, upon certification by the Integrated Waste Management Board, are empowered to implement delegated Board programs and locally designated activities. LEAs have the primary responsibility for ensuring the correct operation and closure of solid waste facilities in the state. They also have responsibilities for guaranteeing the proper storage and transportation of solid wastes.

Select listings for  
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03-Amador  
04-Butte  
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**County of Contra Costa (07-AA, [Certification types: A B C D](#))**

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Environmental Health Division  
2120 Diamond Blvd Ste 200  
Concord, CA 94520

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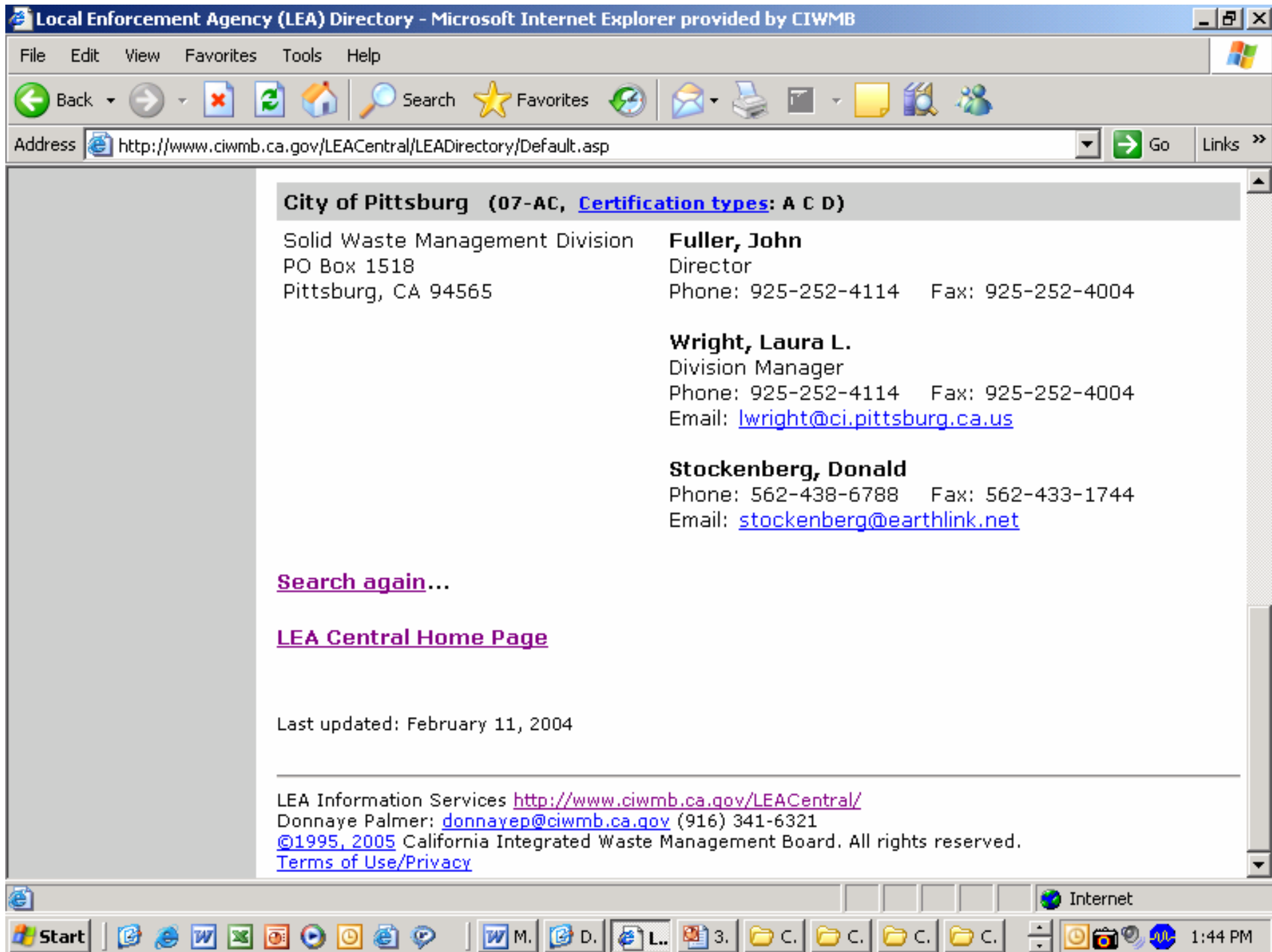
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# Construction and Demolition Debris



















# Transfer Station

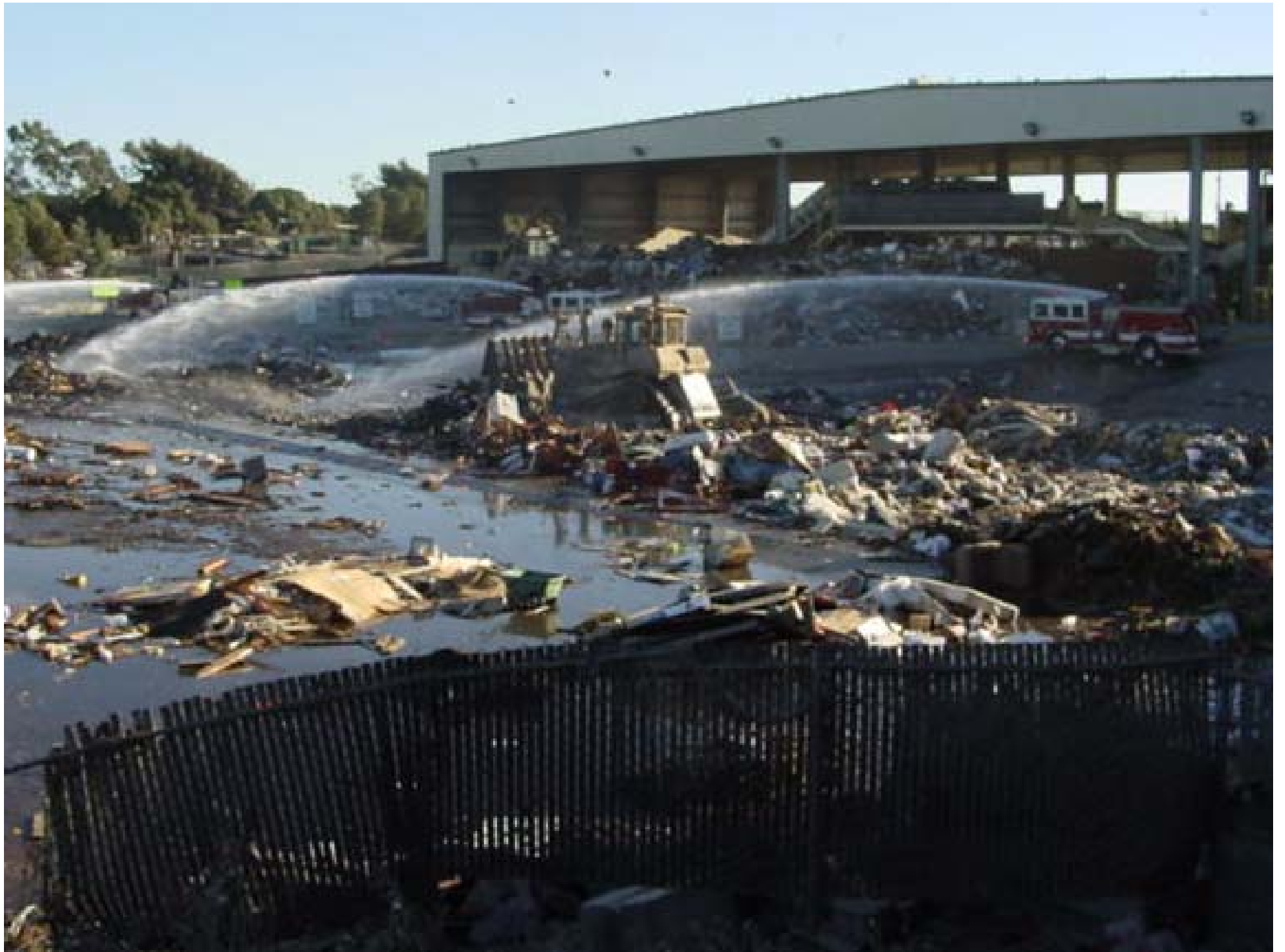














# Compost Materials











# Pile Size and Location Issues

Distance measured by: ☐ Tape ☐ Pace ☒ Estimate Not to Scale

16. Sketch the area where the fire originated

Access To Green Waste

140' x 50' x 20'

METHANE Collection Unit

VENTED

FIELD (METHANE VENTING)

18. Action

None	<input type="checkbox"/> Invest. Cont'd.
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Litigation

















# **Key Discussion Topics for Solid Waste Fires**

## **List of Issues or Problems Identified**

- 1. Number and extent of fires difficult to determine**
- 2. Accurate fire case studies difficult to obtain or create**
- 3. Verifiable cause difficult to determine**
- 4. Fire Departments and Solid Waste LEAs don't routinely interact**
- 5. Official BMPs don't exist:  
Prevention and Suppression not standardized**
- 6. What else?**





# **Key Discussion Topics for Solid Waste Fires**

## **Gaps or Ideas That Could Lead to Solutions**

- 1. Are new CDI Fire Preventions Plans useful?**
- 2. Can Voluntary BMPs prevent or reduce fires?**
- 3. Develop BMPs to suppress a solid waste fire?**
- 4. Revise Fire Codes for solid waste businesses?**
- 5. Use CUP, CEQA or CIWMB processes to mitigate fires?**
- 6. More Education/Outreach needed?**
- 7. New Laws? New Regulations?**
- 8. What else can be done?**



**Comments or Questions  
on  
Discussion Paper**